

February 21, 1979

Dear Councilman Martinez,

As you know, the Fleming Ave-Brill St Block Association got started in the summer of 1977 when the original plans for the Ballantine property called for blighting our neighborhood so that the developer could get a tax abatement. We objected, organized, went to the Planning Board, and successfully got our homes taken out of the area to be blighted.

Since that time we have continued to work on issues of concern to us in the neighborhood. We have made progress on some problems, but others have not been resolved to our satisfaction. We want to take this opportunity to call your attention to issues which are unresolved at this moment, and ask for your assistance in dealing with them.

1. On January 9, the Fleming Ave-Brill St Block Association attended a hearing of the Board of Adjustment at which a zoning variance was denied for a used truck parts company at 2-8 Brill St. Our members, Chet Chrobot and Margaret Leski, spoke about the problems with this company.

Since Jan. 9, there has been no sign that the company is phasing out - in fact there have been more trucks there. Mrs. Leski reported that there have been several more fires, one serious, and neighbors are concerned about danger to their homes.

When is this operation going to move out?

2. Block Association members John Pozarewski and Tom Olanahan have been dealing for years with problems caused by trucks parked in the lot at 107-131 Brill St. in violation of zoning and health codes.

Recently, the code enforcement department did an extensive investigation of the property but despite repeated calls, we have not been able to learn the results of the investigation. It will soon be over a year since we first began correspondence with public officials about this lot.

3. In January, the City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting trucks over 4 tons on Brill St. The signs were to be up within 20 days of passage, which would have been Jan. 31. The signs are not up yet.

On March 14, 1978, at a Block Association ceremony almost a year ago, you gave a verbal commitment to assist us in dealing with the two above issues - the Brill St. lot and the trucks on the street.

When will some action be taken on these issues?

4. Another problem has been raised by Rose Keifinder, of 146 Brill. She is living next door to a building which has been condemned. A 3 story scaffolding next to the building is in shaky and dangerous condition. If it collapses, it could damage the house or injure people in the yard. The building is at 144 Brill St.

5. At the end of Brill St, next to the Onyx Building, a Port-o-San company is parking its trailers. Neighbors are concerned about what is being done on that lot, if sewage is being drained there.

6. Mrs. Loretta Manyon brought up the problem of the Prudential apartments lack of security and state of disrepair. Mrs. Manyon called your office and was told that there was nothing to be done because the Aspen Co which owns the building does not have the money to do it.

We do not believe that is accurate.

7. Mr. Krajewski, of 27 Shalk St, has been trying to get some action about the Shalk St sewer since August of 1977. There is a constant problem of overflow there.

8. People have seen chemical drums being moved into the Evers Ice Cream Building. What is being stored in that building? Has it been inspected properly?

9. There have been several complaints about slow response from the Police Department to answering routine calls in this part of the Ironbound. Recently, there was a 3 hour delay before a patrol car answered a call outside St. Al's. In addition, we have observed a patrol car on guard during an entire day outside Fidelity Bank. We do not believe this is proper service for our area, and we want something done about it.

10. We have a Zoning Committee which has been working for the past few months on a review of the existing zoning in our area and suggested alterations. We have developed a large map of desired changes, and we will communicate the specific zoning changes to you in a written form shortly. The area does include presently a lot of I3 zoning designations. We do not feel these are beneficial to our area, which is a residential area. We hope to change the zoning so that it is in accordance with the area.

11. We recently attended a public hearing on 2 UDAG proposals which affect our neighborhood. One is for the Ballantine properties; the other is for a garbage separation facility on Blanchard Street.

Although we were able to get basic information at the hearing, there are many questions we have about the projects which we want answers to. We have written to Mr. Al Pailla, detailing our questions, and a copy of our letter to him and our questions are enclosed. We are asking for a meeting with the developer.

All of these issues need to be resolved. We would welcome a written response on each question, as to what steps you will take to assist in their resolution. We would also like to meet with you on Thursday, March 1, at 7:30 PM, location to be confirmed. If that date is not acceptable, please advise and suggest an alternative. Correspondence can be addressed to Henry Levandowski, 110 Fleming Ave or a message can be left by phone with Nancy Zak at the Community Information Center 344-7208.

We look forward to your cooperation in resolving these problems.

Sincerely,



Henry Levandowski, President

Chet Chrobot, Vice President